

JUN 29 2007

2002P16242US01; 60,427-605

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-10, 12-13, and 21-30 remain pending in the application including independent claims 1 and 9. Non-elected method claims 14-20 have been cancelled. Claims 6-7 and 11 have also been cancelled. New dependent claims 31-32 have been added.

Claims 1, 4, and 9 have been amended to overcome the examiner's objections identified in the first and second paragraphs of page 3 of the present office action. Claims 1-5, 8, 21, and 22 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejection. Specifically, the preamble of the claim has been amended to clarify that the invention is directed to a "component interface to form a laser weld joint." Applicant respectfully asserts that the metes and bounds of the claims are now clearly defined and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 8, 21, and 22 are indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the claim objections, and the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection. As discussed above, these claims have been so amended. Claims 13 and 23 are indicated as allowable. Claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claims 1-5, 8, and 21-30 should also now be in condition for allowance.

The only claims currently rejected under prior art are claims 9, 10, and 12, which stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2001-105500 (JP '500). The examiner argues that claim 9 is anticipated by JP '500 as explained in the marked-up figure set forth on page 8 of the present office action. The portion of this figure that is labeled "Other end" is not found in any of the Figures of JP '500. Applicant assumes that the "other end" that the examiner is referring to would be the other end of the portions shown in Figure 3; however, the examiner's "other end" appears not to correspond in shape to that of the components shown in Figure 3, but instead seems to be shaped more like the components shown in Figure 4.

Applicant is not clear on the examiner's position with regard to this new rejection. Is the examiner arguing that there is some sort of combination of Figures 3 and 4? Further, the examiner argues that the first tapered surface A1 defines a first angle A5 that is different than a second angle A6; however, there is no indication where JP '500 teaches that these angles are different. Figures 3 and 4 both disclose an angle of ten degrees. As such, these angles are

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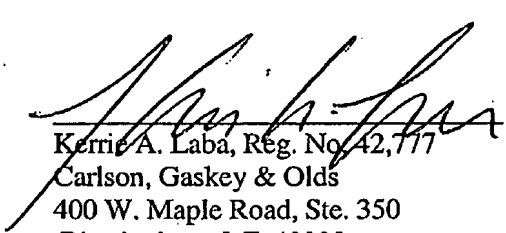
identical to each other, and thus cannot be considered different from each other. Thus, applicant respectfully asserts that claims 9, 10 and 12 are allowable over JP '500

If applicant's representative has misunderstood the examiner's position, applicant's representative invites the examiner to call applicant's representative so that a better understanding of the examiner's interpretation of JP '500 can be provided through a discussion of the reference.

New claims 31-32 are allowable over the references for the reasons set forth above. Applicant respectfully asserts that all claims are now in condition for allowance and requests an indication of such.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the \$120.00 one-month extension of time fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds. Further, the Commissioner is authorized to charge \$100.00 for two additional dependent claims. Applicant believes that no additional fees are due; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees.

Respectfully submitted,

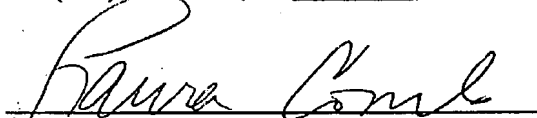


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 872-9306, on 6-29, 2007.



Laura Combs